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Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME STOCKHOLM
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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJ: URANIUM ENRICHMENT COOPERATION
REF: STATE 245034, 250209

1. IN VIEW OF MAJOR EMPHASIS WHICH OPEN HAS PLACED ON
POSTPONEMENT OF DECEMBER 31, 1973, DEADLINE FOR AEC
LONG-TERM ENRICHMENT CONTRACTING AS INDICATION OF U.S. WILLING-
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NESS TO COOPERATE IN EUROPEAN DIFFUSION PLANT, A REPORT

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ON STATUS OF THESE CONTRACTS NOW THAT THE DEADLINE HAS PASSED MAY BE OF INTEREST TO POSTS.

2. BY END OF CY 1973, SEVENTEEN LONG-TERM FIXED COMMITMENT ENRICHMENT SERVICES CONTRACTS HAD BEEN EXECUTED BY AEC WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN CUSTOMERS, IN ADDITION TO 16 WITH THOSE IN FAR EAST. SPECIFIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE EUROPEAN CONTRACTS IS: AUSTRIA - 1; EURATOM SUPPLY AGENCY (FOR FRG) - 3; SPAIN - 7; SWEDEN - 3; SWITZERLAND -3. OF THE OTHER EUROPEAN REACTORS NEEDING INITIAL DELIVERIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1978 (EXCLUDING THOSE IN FRANCE), TEN REACTORS IN THE FRG APPARENTLY ARE RELYING ON SOME COMBINATION OF SUPPLY FROM THE USSR AND URENCO, WHILE ONE SWISS REACTOR (KAISERAUGST) HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH EURODIF.

3. SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE DEADLINE UNDER AEC'S OFFER TO OPEN WERE RECEIVED FROM ITALY ENEL-5 AND 6) AND SWITZERLAND (LEIBSTADT). FOLLOWING AEC REJECTION OF THESE REQUESTS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEIR JUSTIFICATION DID NOT RELATE ACCEPTABLY TO POSSIBLE U.S. COOPERATION IN A EUROPEAN ENRICHMENT PLANT, LEIBSTADT SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH AEC. ENEL SUBSEQUENTLY ADVISED AEC INFORMALLY THAT IT ALSO PLANNED TO SIGN LONG-TERM CONTRACTS WITH AEC FOR ENEL-5 AND 6, BUT THAT ONLY ONE OF THESE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE, SINCE ENRICHED URANIUM FOR THE OTHER WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED UNTIL AFTER JUNE 30, 1978. AEC CURRENTLY IS CONSIDERING HOW THE ENEL CONTRACT WHICH WAS NOT EXECUTED PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE SHOULD BE HANDLED. RUSH

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